

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT USAID EDG-A-00-02-00030-00
ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
(September 2003– August 2004)**

PROJECT: PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

FINAL GOAL: Provide psychological care for torture victims whose cases come before the Inter-American System for Human Rights Protection

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: More and better-quality comprehensive psychological care for torture victims or their families whose cases come before the Inter-American System.

Annual Goal 2 (2003): Design a methodology of comprehensive psychological care for torture victims who come before the protection bodies of the Inter-American System.			
Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Documentation of methods for comprehensive psychological care.</p> <p>Objective: Design a strategy for treating torture victims or members of their families, and document these experiences.</p>	<p>Improved approach to comprehensive psychological care for torture victims in the Inter-American System.</p> <p>More and better instruments for documenting these experiences.</p>	<p>As the main strategy for monitoring the development, implementation and enrichment of the methodology for comprehensive psychological care, a specialized section was designed for the IIHR web site. The section went on line on 10 December 2003 and was announced in a message posted to the electronic discussion group. It is intended for the exclusive use of the team-network of specialists and the IIHR and CEJIL technical teams responsible for the project, as its main purpose in this first phase is to consolidate development of the treatment methodology for torture victims. It also contains sensitive documents such as psychological treatment reports and transcriptions of hearings by the protection agencies. In the future, this section should be available to anyone who is interested.</p>	<p>URL and password for access to the specialized section.</p> <p>E-mail addresses for members of the team-network discussion group.</p> <p>Hits on the specialized section.</p> <p>A virtual collection of specialized documents, accessible electronically, called "Torture, damages and reparations."</p>

	<p>More exchange of information on experiences with improved comprehensive psychological care for torture victims.</p>	<p>The specialized section of the IIHR web site contains information on resources available for building and improving the professional skills needed for dealing with cases of this type; this should result in better care and be of direct benefit to victims.</p>	
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Annual Goal 1 (2003-2004): Consolidation of the team-network of specialized professionals and application of a methodology for comprehensive psychological care of torture victims whose cases come before the bodies of the Inter-American System.

Goal 1 in the PLAN: Consolidate the team-network of professionals specialized in comprehensive psychological care for torture victims with cases coming before the protection bodies of the Inter-American System.

Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003-2004	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Coordination of the Team-network of Specialized Professionals</p> <p>Objective: Coordinate work and information exchange by the team-network of professionals specialized in comprehensive psychological care for torture victims with cases coming before the protection bodies of the Inter-American System.</p>	<p>The team-network better informed about methods for comprehensive psychological care.</p> <p>Greater strengthening of the team-network.</p>	<p>The specialized section and the discussion group have improved the coordination and performance of the team-network by facilitating regular communication and an exchange of ideas and information.. Members of the team-network are better able to enrich their knowledge about psychological care for torture victims in the Inter-American System because of the access they now have to material displayed in the specialized section of the web site.</p>	<p>List of professionals on the team-network.</p> <p>The electronic discussion group.</p> <p>Messages posted to the discussion group.</p> <p>Specialized section on the IIHR web site <i>Equipo-red del proyecto de asistencia psicológica a víctimas de tortura en el Sistema Interamericano.</i></p>

Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003-2004	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Comprehensive psychological care for torture victims or their families</p> <p>Objective: Offer coordinated, systematic psychological support to victims or members of their families prior to and during hearings before the Inter-American Court and Commission.</p>	<p>Better-quality psychological care for torture victims and members of their families when their cases come before the Inter-American Court and Commission.</p> <p>Greater awareness among victims and their families of the importance of bringing their cases before the Inter-American system.</p> <p>More and better-quality documentation on treatment practices for torture victims.</p> <p>Enhanced methods of comprehensive psychological care.</p>	<p>The period from September 2003 through August 2004 has seen a growing theoretical, technical and logistic capacity to provide comprehensive psychological care to torture victims in the Inter-American System. The last report of indicators (October 2003) named two cases, each of which received about 15 hours of care; as the project progressed through five subsequent cases (Wagner dos Santos vs. Brazil, Centro Panchito López vs. Paraguay, Molina Theissen vs. Guatemala, Daniel Tibi vs. Ecuador, Serrano Sisters vs. El Salvador), the number of hours devoted to each one grew to 50 or more, a clear indication of progress. Because more hours are going into each case, victims now come to their hearings much better prepared and more clearly aware of how important their cases are for the system. The greater time commitment has also produced more complete documentation of each case and fuller psychological reports, necessary both for the presentation of psychological expert witness in the hearings, and to enrich the project's document collection.</p> <p>Case work during this reporting period has taught very important lessons that will enrich project methods for comprehensive psychological care of victims and for documenting these practices. The most significant lesson is the importance of taking a flexible approach to assigning specialists, based on the particular needs of each case. This practice was used successfully to meet the basic objectives of high-quality care for victims and an effective legal strategy for advocacy with the bodies of the System. The flexible approach proved to be an innovative, educational experience.</p> <p>In all cases, victims recognized, both in the hearings and in personal communications, how important it was for themselves and their families to have appealed to the Inter-American System and stressed that their appearance and their cases in general held important implications for their societies.</p> <p>Psychological practice has been improving throughout the year, as is evident in reports submitted by the professionals in charge of each case. The project held surveys among family members of victims appearing in hearings before the Inter-American Court for the cases of Panchito López vs. Paraguay and Daniel Tibi vs. Ecuador to evaluate the quality of care received. In their responses to the questionnaire, these family members stated that the care they had received was critical and fundamental, and they rated it very highly.</p>	<p>Psychological reports submitted by specialists in charge of the cases.</p> <p>Evaluation by the mother of the daughters of Daniel Tibi (Tibi vs. Ecuador) and the mothers of two juveniles who died in the Panchito López detention center (Panchito López vs. Paraguay).</p> <p>Press releases from the Court (hearings on Panchito López vs. Paraguay, Molina Theissen vs. Guatemala, Tibi vs. Ecuador and Serrano Sisters vs. El Salvador).</p> <p>Improvements to the project's proposed methodology.</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003-2004	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Training and support for CEJIL staff.</p> <p>Objective: Provide CEJIL staff with professional guidance for managing cases that involve torture victims.</p>	<p>A CEJIL team better prepared to handle psychological factors in cases of torture.</p> <p>A legal team better prepared to address the needs of torture victims.</p>	<p>Training for the CEJIL team, which began in October 2003, improved their ability to manage situations arising from cases of torture and to recognize the dynamics of working continuously with victims in cases involving serious human rights violations.</p> <p>A general introductory meeting took place on 27 February with the participation of CEJIL staff attorneys and administrative personnel at CEJIL offices in Washington D.C. to lay out the 2004 training program.</p> <p>In keeping with the training plan developed by CEJIL, a workshop for CEJIL attorneys took place on 3 July in Washington D.C., on <i>Counter-transfer</i>.</p> <p>CEJIL is the organization most visible and most actively involved in case litigation in the Inter-American system. The training process has sensitized CEJIL and prepared its staff to deal more effectively with the situation of torture victims.</p>	<p>Training program 2004.</p> <p>List of participants in training sessions.</p> <p>Agendas of training sessions.</p> <p>Report by specialists responsible for training.</p> <p>Proceedings from the workshop on <i>Counter-transfer</i>.</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003-2004	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Litigation of torture cases before the Inter-American System.</p> <p>Objective: Improve the processing of torture cases before the bodies of the system.</p>	<p>More torture cases coming before the Inter-American Court and Commission</p> <p>Greater visibility for this issue in the Inter-American Court and Commission.</p>	<p>On 14 October 2004, during its 118th Regular Session, the Inter-American Commission heard the case Wagner dos Santos vs. Brazil, thus meeting the project's goal for 2003.</p> <p>The Court, during its 62nd Session, held public hearings on the cases Molina Theissen vs. Guatemala and Instituto de Reeducción del Menor "Panchito López" vs. Paraguay.</p> <p>In its 63rd Session, the Court heard the case Daniel Tibi vs. Ecuador, and in its 64th session, Serrano Sisters vs. El Salvador.</p> <p>The court heard project cases in all its regular sessions in 2004, and these four make up 25% of the total number of new cases before the Court this year (15). This is a major achievement, demonstrating the Court's new interest in cases of torture and its sensitivity to the project.</p> <p>The case load was enough to meet the goal for 2003 and marked satisfactory progress toward completion of the goal for 2004: of the six cases proposed, four have already received a hearing, and discussions are well underway for adding the remaining two.</p>	<p>Record of cases litigated by CEJIL; transcription of hearings; case judgments.</p> <p>Press release from the Inter-American Commission reporting on activities during the 119th Regular Session, including general hearings on torture in Brazil and the situation of adolescent inmates in Nicaragua.</p> <p>Communique from the Inter-American Court reporting that hearings had been granted on Panchito López vs. Paraguay, Molina Thiessen vs. Guatemala, Tibi vs. Ecuador and Serrano Sisters vs. El Salvador</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003-2004	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Enrichment of the project's methods for comprehensive psychological care</p> <p>Objective: Upgrade methodologies used by the team-network to provide comprehensive psychological care for torture victims and to present expert witness to the Inter-American Court and Commission.</p>	<p>Continuous improvement of methods for comprehensive psychological care of torture victims</p> <p>More in-depth study of major topics in the methodology</p>	<p>The process of continuously improving the methodology for psychological care benefited from feedback by psychologists, coordination between the legal team and the psychological team, and the Guidance Manual for the Process of Psychological Care, which is now being improved and tested. Reports and articles produced by the project are now posted on the web site to be used for improving project proposals and to provide the team of specialists with regular access to this material.</p>	<p>Preliminary draft of the Guidance Manual</p> <p>Analytical document codifying Court jurisprudence</p> <p>Reports on psychological treatment processes</p>

Annual Goal 2: Advocate for the inclusion of psycho-social reparations for torture cases in the development of jurisprudence by the Court and recommendations by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.			
Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003-2004	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Creating awareness in the Inter-American System</p> <p>Objective: Work with the Inter-American Commission and Court to improve their responses to the psychological impact of torture.</p>	<p>More progressive case law on torture in the Inter-American Commission and Court.</p> <p>Greater awareness by the Commission and the Court on the psychological impact of torture.</p> <p>Inclusion of psycho-social reparations for victims or their families in recommendations and judgments given by entities of the Inter-American System.</p>	<p>The project has met on several occasions with members of the Inter-American Court and Commission, who have shown great interest in the work. It is clear that the bodies of the system are now informed and are continuously developing greater sensitivity to the project. They have granted hearings in project cases and been very attentive and open to oral presentations by expert witnesses.</p> <p>The Commission also appointed Commissioner Susana Villarán and attorney Abi-Mershed to follow up on the project, resulting in closer communication with the Commission.</p>	<p>Agendas of meetings with representatives of the Court and the Commission</p> <p>Progress report on the project, submitted to the Court and the Commission</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003-2004	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Dissemination of information on the project</p> <p>Objective: Provide wider access to information on the subject of torture and its psychological impact on victims or members of their families, and on psychological treatment options, with particular reference to the Inter-American System</p>	<p>More people informed about the psychological impact of torture and methods for treatment.</p>	<p>On 5 November 2003, IIHR headquarters received a group of law students and psychology students from the University of Costa Rica for a combined class introducing the idea of coordination and exchange between psychology and law, such as the project is promoting.</p> <p>On 18 November 2003, IIHR offices hosted a "dialogue," at the initiative of the project technical team, with Peruvian psychologist Victoria Pareja, a member of the <i>Centro de Atención Psico-social</i> (CAPS), a project counterpart organization in Peru.</p> <p>The release of the Thematic File and the specialized issue of the <i>CEJIL Gazette</i> will distribute information on the project to countless people the world over, through the Internet.</p> <p>A new issue of the <i>CEJIL Gazette</i> specialized on the topic of treatment for torture victims was published in four languages. The distribution of this material, which has wide coverage among human-rights protection organizations, should bring about a substantial increase in the number of people informed about the project and will spread knowledge about the innovative issues addressed in the text.</p> <p>Twelve specialized papers are currently being written on critical issues that have arisen during project implementation. They will target attorneys involved in international litigation, commissioners and judges for international protection agencies, the attorneys who support them, and individuals and entities interested in these issues.</p>	<p>IIHR Newsletter No. 77.</p> <p>Proceedings from the interdisciplinary class for law students and psychology students.</p> <p>Audio transcription of the "dialogue" with Victoria Pareja.</p> <p>Attendance records from the "dialogue."</p> <p>Content of the Thematic File.</p> <p><i>CEJIL Gazette</i> specialized issue on torture.</p> <p>Outlines of specialized papers.</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators Work Plan 2003-2004	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Updating the Directory of Organizations</p> <p>Objective: Expand the on-line directory of organizations providing psycho-social care to torture victims.</p>	<p>Greater access by users to up-to-date information on organizations offering psycho-social responses to torture.</p>	<p>The regional directory of organizations lists agencies specialized in psycho-social treatment for torture survivors and their families. It was originally developed using "File Maker Pro," but when the project's specialized section was posted on the IIHR web site, it was transferred to a special web-page format designed by the IIHR so it could be made available on line.</p> <p>The on-line posting of the directory provides more users with greater access to up-to-date information on organizations working with the problems of torture.</p>	<p>Electronic access to the directory of organizations.</p>

What progress has been made toward the performance indicator of the PROJECT ON PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM?

The 2004 performance indicator, improvement in the quantity and quality of comprehensive psychological care for torture victims or their families whose cases come before the Inter-American System, is being met to satisfaction in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The annual numerical goal for 2003 (three cases) was met, and the goal for 2004 is already well along: six cases, of which four have already had public hearings and the other two will be heard before the end of the year.

In qualitative terms, significant progress has been made in improving the psychological care received by victims and their families in project cases, with the implementation of a flexible psychological and legal strategy suited to the particular needs of each case. The project has also begun to compile a methodological library based on documentation of experiences being developed during the course of the work.

The goal for 2003 was to set up the team-network of specialists. This year the project further consolidated the team by setting up a virtual forum: the specialized section of the IIHR web site and the discussion group. It also worked on strengthening the methodology and compiling documentation on experiences and lessons learned. The goal is to complete the project next year, leaving as its legacy a documental and methodological collection that will guide future support for torture victims in the Inter-American System. To date there has been no such material available despite the great need; this is because organizations that support victims of human-rights violations have not been in a position to probe the issues involved.